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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5814  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0008  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0004  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0499  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 001073

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DEPT FOR WHA (DMCCARTHY) AF/RSA (RHOUSTON) IO/UNP  
(BHARRIS), AND AF/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [UNGA](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [MR](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL IN  
CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 5-7

REF: STATE 145279

Classified By: CDA STEVEN KOUTSIS, REASONS 1.4 (b),(d)

¶1. (U) MFA Secretary General Mohamed Lemine Ould Moulaye Zeine told Charge September 4 that Mauritania would be represented in Cairo by Secretary of State for Maghreb Affairs Bismillahi Ali Ould Ahmed and not by the foreign minister.

¶2. (C) Moulaye Zeine said that given that Mauritania presently has an unelected, transitional government, its foreign policy is now to follow consensus in bodies to which it is a member, including the Arab League, UN and AU (even though its AU membership is suspended). Mauritania is not in a position to make initiatives on multilateral issues such as Lebanon or Sudan (although he did confirm press reports that Mauritania is seeking to re-establish diplomatic relations with Sudan).

¶3. (C) This policy includes the GRULAC non-permanent UNSC seat vote, Moulaye Zeine said. If the Arab League or AU forms a consensus, Mauritania would likely follow the consensus. However, if neither body chooses a candidate, Mauritania will be free to vote according to its own interests, and will take into account the positions of its friends, including the U.S.  
Koutsis